

(b) and (c). Optical Fibre Cable has been inducted to a large extent in Junction Network and approximately 979 KMs of Optical Fibre Cable has been laid in inter exchange Network of Delhi. Plans have been drawn to induct Optical Fibre Cable in Subscriber local loop also. During the current year 190 KMs of Optical Fibre Cable has been laid in the network.

Expansion of Exchanges in Kerala

4153. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to expand the telephone exchanges in North Wynad of Kerala which is the most backward, hilly and tribal area;

(b) whether there is any proposal to start new telephone exchanges at Pariya and Valad in North Wynad; and

(c) if so, the time by which these are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) All the six exchanges in North Wynad namely Mananthody, Panamaram, Thalapaoya, Vellamunda, Karthikulam and Korome are planned to be expanded during 1997-98. The exchange at Mnanthody will be expanded in 1996-97 also.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to start a new telephone exchange at Periya. However, a 256P C-DOT electronic telephone exchange has been planned at Valad during the year 1997-98.

Intra-City Radio Connectivity

4154. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have permitted the intra-city radio or microwave connectivity for computer data and/or voice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the frequency band which has been or likely to be allowed to common users and upto what maximum and minimum distance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government have granted licences for inter-city computer connectivity in various frequency bands, like 300 MHz and 2.4 GHz bands.

(c) The requirements of users can be considered on case by case basis depending on their needs. The distance for such operations would depend on various technical propagational factors.

Telephone Facilities in Gujarat

4155. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that rural areas of Gujarat lack sufficient telephone facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any demand/scheme/proposal for opening of Telephone Exchange in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise, location-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The Government is aware that there is scope for improvement in telephone facilities in rural areas of Gujarat. However Gujarat has about 66% villages covered with Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

(c) and (d). The proposals based upon the demand for opening Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat for 1996-97 are enclosed in the Statement.

(e) The Government is taking all the necessary steps to improve the telephone facilities and opening new Telephone Exchanges wherever feasible on the basis of justified demands.

STATEMENT

*Details of Rural Automatic Exchanges
Planned in Gujarat Circle
During 96-97*

S.No.	Location	District	
1	2	3	
1.	Sachana	Ahmedabad	
2.	Sonara	"	
3.	Galudan	"	
4.	Vavera	Amreli	Commissioned
5.	Bhader	"	-do-
6.	Chamardi	"	
7.	Rustampura	Baroda	
8.	Jhagadia (GIDC)	Bharuch	Commissioned
9.	Paguthan	"	
10.	Ikher	"	
11.	Sisdara	"	
12.	Gajera	"	
13.	Varedia	"	
14.	Devpar	Bhuj	
15.	Vadasar	"	

1	2	3
16.	Khirsara	Jamanagar
17.	Mandasani	"
18.	Baghla	"
19.	Motingajhar	"
20.	Mota Barunkia	"
21.	Mandorna	Junagarh Commissioned
22.	Kanesar	Godhra
23.	Ratanpur	"
24.	Baska	"
25.	Virania	"
26.	Pansar	Mehsana
27.	Rajpur	"
28.	Runwara	"
29.	GIDC Lodhika	Rajkot
30.	Vadasar	"
31.	Nani-Parvadi	"
32.	Khokhadar	"
33.	Ambaradi	"
34.	Vajranghialia	"
35.	Arab Timbdi	"
36.	Jamdadar	"
37.	Dedava	"
38.	Unchchhal	" Commissioned
39.	Khajed	"
40.	Kherava	Surendranagar
41.	Ramgadh	"
42.	Issanpur	"
43.	Adiruyana	"
44.	Sili	Valsad Commissioned
45.	Vandervadla	" -do-
46.	Kukrali	"
47.	Pindval	"
48.	Ambajangal	"
49.	Pangalwari	"

[Translation]

Construction Work of Over Bridge in Nagda

4156. DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of over bridge being constructed at Nagda under Western Railways;

(b) the time by which the above bridge is likely to be completed;

(c) the time by which the construction work of foot over bridge connecting Birlagram and Nagda Mandi is likely to be renovated; and

(d) the present status of renovation of platform at Nagda station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Progress of Railway portion 80%.

(b) Railway portion will be completed by June, 97.

(c) The foot over bridge does not require renovation.

(d) No such work has been taken up at Nagda.

[English]

Proper Berthing of Trains

4157. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any procedure/criteria for proper berthing of the trains on different platforms at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether at the time of preparing the berthing sheet the passenger trains are equally distributed on each platform on these stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. When preparing berthing sheet, the express and Passenger trains are distributed on platforms at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin stations keeping in view the availability of platform, duration of halt of train, destination of train etc. The actual berthing of platforms however gets changed some times due to late running, detention outside station and other operation exigencies at the stations.

Daily running of New Delhi-Puri Express Train

4158. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand of the people to run New Delhi-Puri Express daily instead of four days a week;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to provide another rake to fulfil this demand;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to attach AC-3 coaches with it;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?